amended paragraph.

--**Figure 12**, which is presented on two separate sheets labeled **Figure 12A** and **12B**, illustrates a process for generating a wirelength estimate by constructing MST's that include horizontal, vertical, and 45° edges.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, lines 12-13 in the specification with the following amended paragraph.

--**Figure 14**, which is presented on two separate sheets labeled **Figure 14A** and **14B**, illustrates a process for generating a wirelength estimate by constructing Steiner trees with 45° diagonal edges.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, lines 3-4 in the specification with the following amended paragraph.

--**Figure 19**, which is presented on two separate sheets labeled **Figure 19A** and **19B**, illustrates a process that generates a congestion cost estimate, and partitions a set of nets, about a cut line.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, line 6 in the specification with the following amended paragraph.

--**Figure 23**, which is presented on two separate sheets labeled **Figure 23A** and **23B**, illustrates one example of a local optimization process.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, line 7 in the specification with the following amended paragraph.

--**Figure 24**, which is presented on two separate sheets labeled **Figure 24A** and **24B**, illustrates one example of a simulated annealing process.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, line 8 in the specification with the following amended paragraph.